Further, number of other Expert Committees/Task forces were constituted from time to time to examine the area/region specific problems relating to floods, whose recommendations were also sent to the respective State Governments for implementation.

Strengthening of Water Management System

†1058. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country can be declared as flood free by strengthening, water management system in the country;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps so far in this direction;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the country would be made flood free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a), (b) and (e) Flood is a natural phenomenon. Complete protection to all flood affected areas against all magnitudes of flood is neither practically feasible nor economically viable. Reasonable protection against flood using judicious combination of structural and non-structural measures is the strategy adopted for flood management.

(c) and (d) Flood Management being a State subject, flood control schemes are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. Central Government render assistance that are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

The Government of India has set up Ganga Flood Control Commission to tackle the flood problem in Ganga basin, which has prepared comprehensive plans for flood management for all the 23 river systems of Ganga basin. Similarly, the Brahmaputra Board set up by the Government of India under an Act of Parliament has prepared Master Plan for main Brahmaputra and Barak Valley *inter alia* to control floods in North Eastern region. These plans have been forwarded to respective State Government for preparing detailed schemes based on ground surveys and for implementation.

The Central Government has also set up 159 flood forecasting Stations on major interstate rivers which give timely warning to all flood affected regions in various States.

The Government of India constituted several expert committees to study the problem of floods in the country. The Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) set up in 1976 examined the problem in detail and submitted its report in 1980. The Recommendations of RBA, which form the framework for flood management strategy in the country, were forwarded to all the state Governments for implementation.

Further, a number of other Expert Committee/Task Forces were constituted from time to time to examine the area/region specific problems relating to floods, whose recommendations were also sent to the respective State Governments for implementation.